

PROCLAMATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery which includes, but is not limited to, forced labor, sexual exploitation, debt bondage, and forced marriages by use of fraud and/or coercion; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry with 27 million people held in slavery across the world.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State estimates that 14,500 to 17,500 people, primarily women and children, are trafficked to the United States; and

WHEREAS, men, women, and children – both citizens and non-citizens – can be victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, unable to speak or understand English, many immigrant victims trafficked into the United States are held captive and isolated, unaware of their rights and powerless to access services or ask for help; and

WHEREAS, local partnerships with federal, state, county, and city agencies, the Port of Seattle, and community advocacy organizations are providing training for law enforcement, court staff, and human services agencies about how to work together to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Washington became the first state to criminalize human trafficking, and now recognizes a National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness designated by Congress on January 11; and

WHEREAS, the local multi-disciplinary Washington Advisory Committee on Trafficking (WashACT) brings together service providers, law enforcement agencies, and advocacy groups to combat human trafficking, investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking and provide direct assistance to victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, the local multi-agency Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN) brings together local service providers including the International Rescue Committee in Seattle, API Chaya, YouthCare, and Refugee Women's Alliance to provide intensive and long-term case management to survivors of human trafficking in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, over 40 cases of human trafficking have been prosecuted in Western Washington through the leadership of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Western Washington since 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council unanimously passed Resolution 31363 supporting a business-led initiative to prevent human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has been active locally in the fight against human trafficking, maintaining public pressure to urge backpage.com, a site involved in the trafficking of minors, to change their practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has taken also taken an active role in the national fight against child trafficking by sponsoring a resolution at the U.S. Conference of Mayors calling on Village Voice Media's backpage.com to adopt in-person age verification, a resolution adopted by over a dozen major cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the city of Seattle is proud of its commitment to fight human trafficking;

Now, therefore, The Seattle City Council with Mayor concurring proclaim:
January 11, 2013, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day



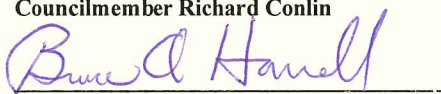
Mayor Michael McGinn



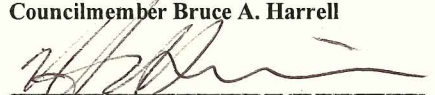
Council President Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Richard Conlin



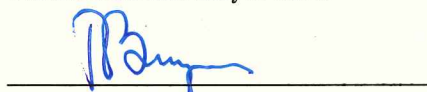
Councilmember Bruce A. Harrell



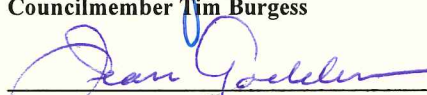
Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Council President Sally J. Clark



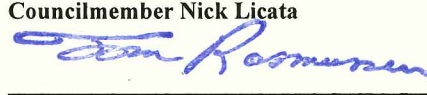
Councilmember Tim Burgess



Councilmember Jean Godden



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Tom Rasmussen